

SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

OU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers about learning in the classroom and how to support that learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

THIRD GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age will be growing in independence and expanding their view of the world. Third-graders are beginning to apply basic skills learned in prior grades to content about their state. Their social studies focus will be on Oklahoma's natural resources, local and state governments, important economic activities and the cultures that have settled in our state.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Identify representative leaders of the state of Oklahoma.
- Describe the historical significance of Oklahoma's state seal and flag.
- Examine how the development of Oklahoma's major economic activities (including oil and gas, agriculture and livestock, aviation, tourism, tribal enterprises and the military) have contributed to the growth of the state.
- Identify and locate Oklahoma's major landforms, bodies of water and cities.
- Describe how pioneers and present-day Oklahomans adapt and modify their environment.
- Describe the many American Indian cultures that have inhabited present-day Oklahoma.
- Summarize how the weather and environment have impacted the economy of Oklahoma.
- Identify state and local landmarks and contributions of notable Oklahomans.

What to do at home:

- Identify your mayor, local state representative, state senator and city officials.
- Visit the State Capitol or local government offices.
- Visit local businesses important to your community.
- Visit local landforms and bodies of water.
- Visit local landmarks, museums, festivals or other local celebrations.
- Read books about Oklahoma or biographies about famous Oklahomans.
- Celebrate Oklahoma's birthday on November 16.
- Go on virtual field trips around the state.



Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to spark curiosity, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- If you could grow up to be famous, what would you want to be famous for and why?
- If you could give \$100 to a charity, which one would you choose and why?
- If you could make a photo book of Oklahoma, what pictures would you include and why?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What food would be served at your favorite meal?
- How did you show kindness to someone today?
- What is your favorite outdoor activity to do with family or friends?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help third-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- What made you pick this book?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far in the story?
- What pictures do you see in your mind as you read?
- What words can I help you understand?

AFTER READING

- What was the most important event in the story? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author might want the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you could give this book a different title, what would it be? Why?